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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/077,408

02/15/2002

Barry Olen Blair

VPI 2426000

3225

7590

03/12/2003

Gregory W. Carr
Suite 670
900 Jackson Street
Dallas, TX 75202

EXAMINER

LAM, TUAN THIEU

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,408

Applicant(s)

BLAIR ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan T. Lam

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the amendment filed 2/6/2003. The pending claims are 1-9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada (USP 4,015,213). Figure 3 shows a circuit for generating a constant pulse width output signal comprising steps of applying one of the pair of pulse width modulated signals (S5, S3) to a set input of a latch circuit, applying the other of the pair of the pulse width modulated signals (S3, S5) to a reset input of the latch circuit, obtaining a constant width drive signal for the output (S6) of the latch circuit as called for in claim 1.

3. Claim 2 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada (USP 4,015,213). Figure 3 shows a circuit for generating a constant pulse width output signal comprising a first pulse width modulated control signal supplying means (13), a second pulse width modulated control signal supplying means (14), a toggle circuit (15) connected to said first and second control signal supplying means, the toggle circuit supplying a first output drive signal level (Q) upon detecting a given characteristic of a first pulse width modulated control signal (S5), and supplying a second output signal (Q/) level upon detecting said given characteristic of a second pulse width modulated control signal received from said second supply means (S3) as called for in claim 2.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, filed 2/6/2003, have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the output signal S6 of the RS flip flop (15) of Hamada is not a constant width drive signal is not persuasive. The additional elements feedback circuit 8, adder 2 attenuator 17, integrator 3, amplitude comparators 13 and 14 of Hamada's figure 3 are implemented to ensure the output signal S6 of the RS flip flop 15 having a constant pulse width. This is further supported by figure 4E. Figure 4E clearly shows the output signal S6 has a constant pulse width for at least 3 periods. Therefore, all limitations recited in claim 1 are fully anticipated by Hamada.

Regarding claim 2, applicant argues that Hamada does not show a symmetrical output signal generated by the RS flip flop 15 is not persuasive. As shown in figure 3, the RS flip flop 15 has two output signals, namely, Q and Q/. The waveform of Q is shown in figure 4E. Although, output signal Q/ is not shown, it is known that Q/ is 180 degrees complement of the output signal Q. Complementary output signals are substantial symmetric. Therefore, the limitations of claim 2 are fully met.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-9 are presently allowed.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In this regard, applicant's cited prior art has been carefully considered.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

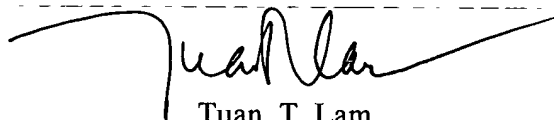
Art Unit: 2816

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Lam whose telephone number is 703-308-4809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday (7:30 am to 6:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Tuan T. Lam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

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March 9, 2003